

# Exhibit K

## Public Correspondence

Public Correspondence received through June 6, 2016

## Jason Bader

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**From:** John Smeraglio <john@flyfishingdeschutes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 03, 2016 9:51 AM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** ODFW Budget Plan

*Dear Oregon Fish and Wildlife,*

*ODFW should evolve into a habitat conservation agency that does more than manage fish and wildlife for harvest by fishing and hunting. The previous four regions and the Habitat Conservation Division should be reestablished.*

*ODFW's programs should be expanded, and funded and staffed at higher levels than in the past. More district and assistant biologists and more research specialists are essential.*

*General taxpayer revenues are needed to help pay for the ODFW activities that benefit fish and wildlife. Higher fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing fees (commercial and recreational) sufficient to help pay for increases in the related programs are high priority.*

*Aquatic and wildlife habitat should have resource management priority and ODFW should have the authority and funding to implement such priority.*

*Increases are needed in funds and staff for ODFW's programs involving habitat protection and restoration for fish, wildlife, wetland and riparian areas. More money is needed for ODFW's water program, including water quantity & quality, research, for applying for new instream water rights and resolving protested instream water rights.*

*ODFW should have authority to set water quality, eutrophication, discharge, sediment delivery and bedload limits for streams that are essential for wild-native salmonid recovery and protection.*

*ODFW should set timber harvest constraints necessary for wild-native salmonid recovery/protection, including discharge/runoff, no disturbance zones and location limits.*

*ODFW should set Oregon land use and development constraints for lands that are of high priority for fish and wildlife.*

*Oregon's water law should be revised to require adequate instream water for fish and wildlife based on ODFW's flow studies and the needs of critical species such as the Spotted Frog.*

*All the best,*

*John Smeraglio  
Owner  
Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop LLC  
599 S. Hwy. 197,  
P.O. Box 334,  
Maupin, OR. 97037  
(541) 395-2565*

To: The ODFW Fish Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in these very important discussions surrounding ODFW's budget allocation through 2017. In addition for the ability to create new funding opportunities to better equip ODFW as an agency in meeting the ever growing and rapidly changing attitudes and needs of Oregon's human land mammal populations and to better be equipped as an agency to address the challenges facing so many species due to the changing weather and ecology in the Pacific Northwest Bioregion.

Now is the time more than ever to come together for the species of the Bio Region. It is crucial for all species on Planet Earth that we human land mammals foster a culture of tolerance & respect and work to build communities of peace and non violence on our waterways, and in our homes and in our hearts which will attract rather than repulse and unite us which is the foundation required to sustain all species except the cockroach into the future.

Moreover in today's fast pace world ODFW's own data reflects that attitudes about wildlife are changing and their own numbers show that less people are spending time out doors hunting and fishing and that those who do make up only approximately 10% of the overall population in Oregon. On the other hand roughly 90% of the population engages in **non lethal-- non invasive activities such as bike riding, hiking, kayaking, and bird watching which have been huge economic drivers in the Bio region.**

**According to a 2011 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) survey that compared hunting, fishing and wild life watching which discovered that non lethal non invasive activities such as wildlife watching was more inclusive and that these activities engaged more participants of all ages yearly. Therefore wildlife in Oregon under ODFW's current funding system is left vulnerable, unrepresented and not protected by ODFW as a exclusive hunting & fishing agency. A new funding system will allow for ODFW to participate as an inclusive and not an exclusive State agency.**

With that said ODFW spending millions of dollars to participate in the lethal removal of sea lions on the Columbia River under the guise of protecting the wild salmon has failed to provide measurable and empirical evidence to prove that it has done so. And that ODFW's own data shows that this is not an effective way to provide cost effective and measurable results as a means to increase and protect populations of esa cold water fish and aquatic habitat.

On the other hand if ODFW invested millions instead to employ people to unblock and maintain the 50,000 currently well documented blocked fish passages in the Pacific Northwest bioregion in which this important work has been shown to be accountable for providing the State with measurable, cost effective results that will actually protect populations of esa salmon and greatly improve esa salmon habitat. On a positive note funding the work of unblocking fish passages provides a measurable and cost effective

return for our ecology and economy in exchange for our billions of dollars spent towards esa salmon recovery efforts that spending millions of vital tax dollars to scapegoat and kill sea lions can never produce.

On another note if ODFW spent millions of dollars investing in toxic remediation in the bio region's waterways which will be a huge benefit to all aquatic species. For example there is a well documented and a rapidly increasing threat of dangerous toxic road run off from the growing population of vehicles on the highway, so investing in the development of a water filtration system for storm drains, culverts and water diversions across Oregon as an opportunity to provide positive economical as well as ecological benefits to our aquatic and terra firma communities that will actually provide cost effective and measurable results to better assist in toxic remediation to assist the State's esa salmon recovery efforts.

Therefore it is time to discontinue the funding of the scapegoating and killing of sea lions on the Columbia River for consuming some salmon below the Bonneville Dam. We ought not to be funding the immeasurable which has been proven to be very expensive and not cost effective and nor does it or has it provided any measurable results for all of our hard earned money spent like investing and funding water filtration systems and the installation of these water filtration systems as a positive economic and very important ecological means of protection of aquatic habitat and esa fish. Water filtration units are a good way of keeping deadly toxics out of our waterways which has been proven to be a good long term investment that scapegoating and killing sea lions under the false guise of saving the salmon is not.

Therefore if ODFW was able to fund internal departments as an inclusive agency that embraces all wildlife and wild life watching opportunities and other non violent, educational, and fun outdoor activities for all ages that appeal to the 90% of the human population in Oregon verses an ODFW under the current funding system as an exclusive agency in which leaves ODFW beholden to the 10% thus leaving 90% of us unrepresented and not participating.

Moreover this prevents adequate resources and energy from being invested into alternative and innovative endeavors that are cost effective and will provide long term protection for all wildlife and not detour impressive innovation from receiving adequate funding like unfortunately the current funding system does. As it encourages the money to be spent on the ineffective scapegoating and killing of important predators not protecting them or the wild salmon from the ultimate causes of esa salmon mortality.

Before it is too late it is time to STOP diverting crucial funding away from worthwhile projects like creating outdoor educational experiences for people to participate in that are not centered around and funded by the 10% killing off Oregon's wildlife because 90% of the people as the survey shows will like to spend time outdoors and observe wildlife and not kill anything at all.

In addition scapegoating sea lions is very expensive in the long run and provides less bang for our tax paying buck in regards to enhancing and providing measurable results

for the billions of dollars thrown at esa salmon recovery efforts. And so to continue to invest funding into blaming sea lions as the empirical evidence has shown as failing as a means to protect and increase populations of esa salmon is not money well spent.

Moreover the funding generated from selling fishing licenses and using it to pay for the killing of sea lions creates animosity, disharmony, and dysfunction within a State agency that is supposed to support biology and functioning ecosystems in which the reality is that other things eat other things and that is they way ecosystems work. In addition Mother Nature put salmon and sea lions together on the Columbia River and they have an ancient relationship that has survived for thousands of years just fine without human intervention and it was not until there were human Anglo Saxons, canneries, clear cuts, aluminum smelters, fish wheels, dams, herbicides, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, heavy metals, PCBS, PAH, DDT's mercury and toxic road run off on the Columbia River that things went dangerously array for the sea lions and the wild fish.

So history reflects 200 years of decimating the world largest wild salmon runs on the Columbia River with USACOE Dams and some feel that is acceptable in the name of human "progress" that the wild fish and California sea lions have been made to pay the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

On the other hand spending millions of dollars to blame sea lions for consuming a few salmon out of the Columbia River in front of the Bonneville Dam has not increased populations of esa salmon. Moreover ODFW's own data reflects that far more esa salmon can be decimated in one season by one clogged and unscreened culvert and not to mention the many unscreened water diversions across Oregon that have the ability to leave thousands of salmon gasping for air and dying in a farmer's field than consumed by sea lions at the Bonneville Dam.

**Let's do the math** : 3,500 known culverts multiplied by only 3 esa salmon per culvert = 10,500 salmon killed, and that is more salmon consumed by all the sea lions combined at the Bonneville Dam in 2015 <http://tinyurl.com/qbu4q9k>

"Several monitored fish screening/trap designs in Oregon and elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest have shown that **thousands of young salmonids can be lost in a single unscreened diversion in one season.**(Baki, Pete (Pg 6, 1 ODFW's Fish Screen Report).

**In 2016 thousands of** water diversions remain unscreened in Oregon, placing fish at risk." (Pg. 2, 5) Curt Melcher, Interim ODFW 2013 -15 fish screen report. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/ojsybay>

In the wake of this fish screening research ODFW ought to allow more money to be spent to address employing people to install fish screens on the thousands of well documented unscreened culverts and water diversions that remain unscreened in Oregon. In addition investing in employing a whole cadre of people to maintain these screens is a must because water bodies fluctuate and move and what may work one year might not necessarily work the next. Moreover this will be a cost effective investments that will provide jobs and measurable results to the tax payer and as well provide actual measurable protection for vulnerable populations of esa salmon. Therefore investing in and installing and maintaining fish screens that meet lamprey friendly criteria in Oregon will greatly assist the State in esa salmon recovery efforts that blaming sea lions will not.

In addition to help ensure protection for Oregon's ecology there is a need to increase the availability for students and the 90% to have access to engage in the study of botany and fund professors that can imbibe appreciation of the natural world is all money well spent.

### **Embracing sea lions**

Fascinating, beautiful and diverse in their look as in their nature-- Sea lions have been enchanting visitors in the East Mooring Basin in Astoria Oregon for over 25 years. It is simply not true that everyone who lives and visits Oregon has the time and desire to go fishing and to limit ODFW's involvement to solely the sale of the hatchery fish does little to protect Oregon natural ecology and undermines the agency's opportunities to expand their programs and funding possibilities, and that is why these discussions are so encouraging.

#### **Did you know?**

- **\$1 spent on state marketing = \$237 in visitor spending\***
- **\$1 spent on state marketing= \$11 in state and local tax revenue\***
- \*Advertising Accountability Study, Longwoods International, 2014 – Results for 2012-2013 campaigns <http://industry.traveloregon.com/research/oregon-statewide-visitor-research/>

**By Embracing sea lions** and creating and expanding educational wildlife watching opportunities for folks in the Pacific Northwest is good for the ecology, for tourism, and creates jobs and new business opportunities in the bioregion. In addition most of these

tourism dollars stay in the State & are the vital life blood for so many of our local communities.

**Sea lions are the favorite attraction at San Francisco at Pier 39.**

- “68% of our visitors visit the sea lions during a visit to PIER 39, making the sea lions are most popular attraction at the PIER.”

Source: PIER 39 2012 Visitor Intercept Study conducted by Rigney & Associates and Destination Analysts. <http://tinyurl.com/o3qj7zt>

**Sea Lions are voted as a favorite attraction in Astoria, in 2014.**  
<http://tinyurl.com/pdvll4b> <http://tinyurl.com/nswsfvy>

So the evidence is clear that ODFW being beholden to those 10% some who want to drink champagne yet pay the price of cheap beer to kill wildlife for sport does nothing to ensure that ODFW as a State agency that can live up to its mission statement to protect wild life and the natural ecology for 90% of the future generations of Oregonians.

In addition ODFW's own data reflects that ODFW no longer represents the majority of people in our State, so this agency funded solely by hunting and sport fishing is not progressive and inclusive enough to protect vulnerable populations of wildlife and the ecology.

In conclusion ODFW has a chance to be more successful in moving towards WILD salmon recovery if such heavy emphasis and funding is NOT placed on hatchery production and predator scapegoating and removal programs. And instead focus is placed on the “ultimate” causes of esa salmon mortality, such as warm water, blocked fish passages, unscreened culverts and water diversions and toxic remediation as measurable cost effective means to protect vulnerable populations of esa fish.

Thank you so much for your time and assistance with this matter and I really look forward to furthering these discussions in the future.

For the sea lions, the wild salmon, wildlife watchers and the Columbia River

Ninette Jones

Portland Oregon, 97217

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Jason Bader

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**From:** H. Tom Davis <tomlin2@bendcable.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2016 9:52 AM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** 2017 - 2019 Budget  
**Attachments:** 2017\_2019\_Budget\_Comments.docx

Comments attached.

Tom Davis, PE

*Hydrologist and Water Resources Engineer*  
69217 Tapidero, Sisters, OR 97759  
541 549 1222  
<http://tomswildlandphotography.com/>



69217 Tapidero  
Sisters, OR 97759

ODFW Director's Office  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE  
Salem, OR 97302

**SUBJECT: ODFW 2017-2019 Budget Comments**

My comments emphasize modifying ODFW's existing WQ, timber harvest and water rights authorities. Under certain circumstances aquatic and wildlife habitat should have resource management priority and ODFW should have the authority and funding to implement such priority. ODFW's programs should be expanded; and funded and staffed at significantly higher levels than in the past. The Habitat Conservation Division should be reestablished.

Just as we no longer manage forests primarily for tree harvest, i.e. logging, ODFW should evolve into a habitat conservation agency that does more than manage fish and wildlife for harvest by fishing and hunting. General taxpayer revenues are needed to help pay for the ODFW activities that benefit fish and wildlife.

Significant increases are needed in funds and staff for ODFW's programs involving water quantity & quality; research; and habitat protection and restoration for fish, wildlife, wetland and riparian areas. More money is particularly needed for ODFW's water program, including for applying for new instream water rights and resolving protested instream water rights.

More district and assistant biologists and more research specialists are essential. The previous four regions should be reestablished. Higher fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing fees (commercial and recreational) sufficient to help pay for increases in the related programs are high priority.

ODFW should have authority to set water quality, eutrophication, discharge, sediment delivery and bedload limits for streams that are essential for wild-native salmonid recovery and protection. Conditional authority is needed for ODFW to set Oregon and federal timber harvest constraints that are necessary for wild-native salmonid recovery/protection, including discharge/runoff, no disturbance zones and location limits.

ODFW must be able to set Oregon land use and development constraints for lands that are of high priority for fish and wildlife.

Oregon's water law should be revised to require adequate instream water for fish and wildlife based on ODFW's flow studies and the needs of critical species such as the Spotted Frog.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

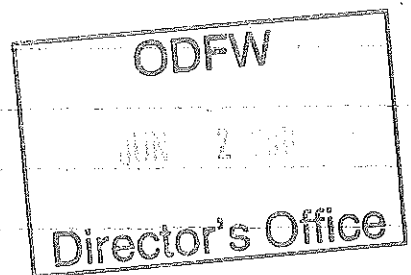
H Tom Davis, PE  
Water Resources Engineer and Hydrologist

Supervisor,

Concerning your department's limited budget, I believe that a very good way to save money would be to stop killing wildlife (trapping, poisoning) in the massive and unwarranted numbers that you do. Your department is not meant to be a vehicle of special interest groups, such as ranchers.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Behg  
2026 Lake Isle Dr  
Eugene, OR 97401



**Jason Bader**

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**From:** BECKY MCRAE <bmcræ@centurytel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 2:55 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comment on 2017-2019 Budget Development

We know there will be lots of requests for items to be included in the upcoming budget.

We also know there was a considerable amount of staff and public time and energy putting together a workable Coastal Management Plan. During that process, it was pointed out that the winter steelhead spawner counts on the Nehalem/Salmonberry river and the filmed counts going over Winchester Dam were the two data points that ODFW would be able to use to estimate the health of ALL coastal wild winter steelhead populations from the Umpqua River north.

Last year, the counts over Winchester Dam were stopped, budget cuts being cited as the reason.

We feel it is imparetive for the healthy management of the the wild winter steelhead populations that the staff position be filled. We are unsure how the run of the entire wild winter steelhead populations from the Umpqua north can be managed with now only one data point.

Sincerely,  
Pat and Becky McRae  
Tigard, OR

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Cheryl at Upper Dry Creek Ranch <cosner@upperdrycreekranch.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 11:38 PM  
**To:** odfw.comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Public Comments from the Web

### PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE WEB

Topic: ODFW budget for 2017-2019  
Name: Cheryl Cosner  
E-mail: [cosner@upperdrycreekranch.com](mailto:cosner@upperdrycreekranch.com)

#### Comment:

It has been brought to my attention that the 2017-2019 ODFW proposed budget has introduced the addition of eight new full time positions for Wolf Implementation at the expense of \$2,000,000. This amounts to \$250,000 per added position.

Across Oregon, Wildlife Services performs many Wolf Management functions in concert with ODFW. As a livestock producer and client of Wildlife Services, I often hear of budget shortfalls related to activities necessary for Wildlife Services to perform their function. As I review this budget, I see opportunity for Oregon State to re-evaluate the functions of ODFW and Wildlife Services and coordinate spending and activities between the two agencies rather than adding more expense to taxpayers with additional salaries and payroll.

This budget is proposing \$25,634,079 in new programs for 2017-2019. This is an increase of 300% over the current continuing programs. I highly question the need for an increase of this extreme nature. As a business person, I am required to carefully monitor how I spend money for my business. As a taxpayer, I expect the same from my state government.



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Dave Hohler <d Hohler@techtrend.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 8:36 AM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Support for ODFW's proposed budget

I am writing today to express my support for the Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife's proposed budget for 2017-2019. I believe that ODFW has a critical role in the protection and management of Oregon's aquatic resources and that in order to adequately fulfill that role and redeem their responsibilities they must have the funding and resources to meet the demands of the current management environment. My support includes the increased funding for ODFW's Water Quantity and Water Quality Program, an increase in funding for district biologists and assistant district biologists, and increased funding for support staff and funding for ODFW's work under the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. As citizens of the state of Oregon we cannot expect to have sustainable aquatic resources, especially in the face of the current challenges to them, without providing the funds to do the job.

Thank you for the opportunity for the public to provide comments and support, including the additional Portland town hall on May 26.

Sincerely,

Dave Hohler

3147 NW Norwood Dr  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
541-760-2605

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Curt Mattson <curtis.l.mattson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2016 5:21 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Budget

I attended the LaGrande town hall meeting and would like to submit some comments. First of all i was surprised that no actual budget numbers were talked about by your staff. The last budget cycle was rehashed with emphasis on the fact that there is no fee increase in the new budget proposal, but the last budget contains a graduated increase, so in actuality there is an increase, but you are able to pat yourselves on the back for no new increase in fees. It also appears that you take improving your marketing to new customers more seriously than solving your game problems, ie mule deer, or taking advantage of opportunities such as spring black bear. Why is a spring bear tag a controlled hunt? I am totally opposed to using general fund monies to fund ODFW wolf implementation positions. We are at the point in wolf population growth in Oregon where we are going to need to start doing things to wolves, not for them. There are already mechanisms and personnel in place in this state that are well qualified to handle wolf management under your direction. You should be looking seriously for ways to handle these issues without adding PERS covered state employees. I am also opposed to the proposed NRCS liasons. Really? Adding PERS covered state employees to talk to federal employees? Don't you have habitat staff already. During economic times such as where we find ourselves currently, I consider most habitat projects and the resultant monitoring to be recreational and unnecessary.

I do agree that more general fund money should fund your budget and it shouldn't fall entirely on the shoulders of sportsmen, but I am also a tax payer. It seriously hurt to pay my income taxes this year. When you couple that with my property taxes and the license fee increase, I had to really consider what tags to apply for. We are a family of 4. The application fees alone are a problem. We did not apply for the tags we normally do. We will purchase fewer tags in the future. My son and I decided to go steelhead fishing after a several year hiatus. I swore I would never steelhead fish again after you instituted the columbia basin endorsement, but he is graduating high school and going into the Air Force, so one last time for a while. \$200 later we walk out of the store. Trust me that won't happen again.

Some retiree, usually a PERS retiree, always wants a senior sports pac. Most of these guys have more disposable income than the vast majority of middle aged families, suck it up grandpa.

I would really like to see a government agency tighten it's belt. That means less employees, spending less, doing less. Government doing less is not the end of the world.

Thanks for your time and the opportunity to comment.

Curt Mattson  
72195 Darr Road  
Elgin, OR 97827

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Moskosalmo <moskosalmo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 4:36 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comment on ODFW Budget Development 2016: The Conservation Angler  
**Attachments:** TCA Comment ODFW Budget 2016.pdf

Please find attached a comment letter on the 2016 ODFW Budget Development Process from The Conservation Angler.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

David A. Moskowitz  
Executive Director  
The Conservation Angler



May 31, 2016

Curt Melcher, Director  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

Re: Comments on the 2017-19 Agency Budget Development Process

Dear Curt:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your agency's budget plans for 2017-19. Not every state or federal agency takes their "show" on the road, and this effort is appreciated.

I would like to make two process points first. One, the concept of town halls gives the impression that there will be an opportunity to comment. While you and your staff did answer some questions from the audience, it was not clear to most that there would not be a chance for the public to comment until they realized the clock was ticking down.

Two, the location of the town halls needs to include the populated areas as well as representative rural areas. It is not easy to hit the sweet spots, but in my opinion, ODFW and the Fish and Wildlife Commission have been avoiding holding public meetings in the most populated urban areas in recent years. I realize you since added a Portland meeting last week. I could not attend, but I do wish to say "Thank you."

Before I delve into the substantive comments, I wish to introduce you to an organization that is new to Oregon, The Conservation Angler. Founded by Pete Soverel in Washington, the Conservation Angler is a wild fish conservation organization with offices in Washington and Oregon. I have been hired as Executive Director and will be expanding Conservation Angler's activities throughout the Pacific Northwest. I look forward to working with you and your staff and the Fish and Wildlife Commissioners to protect and promote Oregon's wild fish resources.

The Conservation Angler  
Peter W. Soverel, President  
16430 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West, Edmonds, Washington 98026  
Office: 425 742 1938  
Cell: 425 501 9852  
[soverel@wildsalmonrivers.org](mailto:soverel@wildsalmonrivers.org)



## 2017-19 ODFW Proposed Budget Comments

1. The Conservation Angler (TCA) supports continued and increased General Fund (GF) requests to the Oregon Legislature. The amount of GF in the current budget (about 11%) should be the floor, and at even at that level, is insufficient to support ODFW programs that benefit all Oregonians and as such, should be supported by general tax dollars.

Given that the 2017 Oregon Legislature will be forced to address the financial consequences of an overturned attempt to reform the public employee compensation and benefits system, TCA would like to learn what ODFW is planning to do to secure the modest GF increase authorized for 2015-17, and to learn how ODFW plans to handle a likely decrease in GF for 2017-19

2. TCA believes that ODFW must prioritize its budgeting to provide robust funding for the areas where ODFW has statutory authority that aligns with your primary agency mission: protect and enhance of Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats.

To that point, TCA believes that ODFW's budget priorities must align most closely with the following activities:

a. Protecting and restoring fish passage throughout Oregon, and not only for anadromous fish.

b. Ensuring that water diversion fish screens are installed and in working order throughout Oregon.

c. Ensuring that all energy development projects are scoped, planned and developed in close collaboration between ODFW, other state agencies and the energy developers so that their effects are eliminated, minimized or, in certain cases, mitigated.

d. Conducting the population monitoring for fish and wildlife necessary to set proper seasons, ensure protection from over-harvest, and foremost, to detect trends in abundance over time so that wild fish and wild game may indeed provide use and enjoyment for present and for future generations (the secondary aspect of the ODFW mission).

3. TCA urges ODFW to investigate and explore new tools and technology to conduct population abundance monitoring for fish and wildlife. ODFW must prepare their staff

and the commission to acquire the equipment, training and analysis capabilities to incorporate emerging technologies.

4. Regarding ongoing calls for predator control, TCA believes that predator control is a proper management tool when fish and/or wildlife face a human-caused "bottleneck" such as at a fish ladder where sea lions may predate anadromous fish species that are the subject of hundreds of millions of dollars of recovery funding. However, we believe that in the case of the cormorants (and terns before that) on man-made dredge spoil islands in the lower Columbia, predator control comes too close to a line - if you advocate for killing birds, where do you draw the line - what about kingfishers, herons, osprey? Finally, predators commonly survive on other more-easily caught species, or they focus on hatchery-raised salmon and trout for only specific periods as these fish are in concentrated abundance for a short period and are less wary than wild fish.

5. Based on the handout ODFW Budget 101, it appears that ODFW does not spend license dollars for hatchery production. Rather, "hatchery production" is funded both from GF and Obligated Funds (we assume these are hatcheries operated as mitigation). TCA does not believe GF dollars, generated by overall Oregon taxpayers, should be used to fund hatchery production when it is scientifically documented that hatchery production causes direct harm to wild fish abundance, diversity and resilience. This expenditure is in direct conflict with your primary mission statement and is self-defeating in terms of meeting the long-term goals of your secondary mission statement as well. For wild fish, hatchery production is a fundamentally flawed management policy and is completely unsubstantiated scientifically.

6. A comment on the use of the commonly used term "customers" by your agency. ODFW must redefine how it views its "customers." As "customers," hunting, fishing and shellfish license buyers provide the agency with about half of its revenue. Yet ODFW's secondary mission is to provide use and enjoyment for present and future generations. This is undoubtedly applicable for ALL Oregonians, now (present) and in the future. ODFW must manage fish for the angler whose idea of "use and enjoyment" is to catch and release a wild fish. ODFW must manage wildlife for the bird enthusiast who does not own a gun. Sadly, by focusing on the license-buying "customer" ODFW has created two types of customers - the ones who buy a license and the ones who do not. And ODFW only receives a small amount of general support from the largest segment of Oregonians - those who do not buy a license. This is not a winning strategy that will enable ODFW to engage every citizen of the state (as well as out of state "customers") and expand support for the programs ODFW is statutorily required to complete.

7. This leads to a final point about the link between this process, the current alternative funding task force, and the budget advisory process - it seems there are currently three different points of access to address ODFW funding issues all happening at the same time. While the Task Force is looking at developing some tangible options, most if not all will require Legislative approval. They will likely not come into focus until the following biennium at the earliest. Nevertheless, I think it difficult for a "customer" or a citizen to sensibly follow your process as the multiple tracks create some confusion. Given the ever-increasing depth of your workload, the long-term diminishment of staffing in certain divisions, staffing a statewide road show on the budget as well as a budget advisory committee and the task Force at the same time seems less than effective at conveying the agency's needs and building effective relationships with a broader set of "customers."

We understand the budget process is a long and winding road. TCA supports robust funding for ODFW. However we believe ODFW expenditures and funding sources have become overly complex from the multi-year funding cuts and creative funding gap solutions put in place as temporary bandaids but have now become sacred cows. In the short term, ODFW is likely going to need to find \$30 million in lost GF support as the Legislature comes to grips with a solution for PERS. TCA would like to help ODFW with this work, as well as support sensible solutions advanced by the Alternative Funding Task Force.

Sincerely yours,

Sent via email

David A, Moskowitz  
Executive Director  
The Conservation Angler  
Portland Office:  
3241 NE 73rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213  
971-235-8953

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Kimberley Priestley <kjp@waterwatch.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comments on ODFW's proposed budget

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,

We would encourage the Department to propose additional staff to the water quantity and water quality program. ODFW's water related work is critical. As you likely know, water is becoming increasingly complex. Eighteen out of Oregon's nineteen river basins are over-appropriated during the summer months, there are increasing pressures on Oregon's rivers and streams (and hydraulically connected groundwater) from development, climate change is/will be impacting timing/amount of streamflow and listed fish/aquatic species are in trouble. I cannot overstate how important ODFW's water work is in the face of these challenges. And while we appreciate that ODFW has faced funding challenges in recent years, we do think that increased funding of the water program is especially important now and going into the future.

At the very least, we would urge ODFW to consider adding an Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Coordinator. The state adopted the IWRS in 2012, and since then the Governor's office and a number of natural resource agencies have relied on the existence of the IWRS to secure funding for water projects and staff, and to direct agency work. The Strategy, by statute, is supposed to guide actions to meet both instream and out-of-stream needs. Most of the strategy's substantive instream directives involve ODFW. This work is critical, and needs proper staffing. In our estimation, the water program staff is already over-stretched. Additional capacity could help ODFW move forward on the instream directives of the IWRS, not the least of which are applying for new instream water rights and determining the full suite of instream flow needs across the state.

Thank you for consideration of our comments,

Sincerely,



Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst  
WaterWatch of Oregon  
213 SW Ash, Suite 208  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-295-4039, x 3  
[www.waterwatch.org](http://www.waterwatch.org)

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## Jason Bader

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**From:** Harry R. Reid <harry.r33@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 30, 2016 2:02 PM  
**To:** odfw.comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** ODFW 2017-2019 Proposed Budget Comments

Hi ODFW Representative,

Thank you very much for soliciting budget input from the public and for considering the following suggestions.

We are long-time Oregon residents who are here in large part because we enjoy the outdoors and care immensely about preserving it. Our family would like to see the following :

- 1) inventories completed of various and most wildlife species in Oregon. This is so as to have a reference point to monitor whether our wildlife populations are healthy or not. Beavers, our state animal, are a perfect example of where this could and should be done.
- 2) the new General Fund monies go directly to supporting our non-game wildlife species. We would like to see a concentration on the preservation of all species and their habitat leads to the healthiest environment for all, including humans. This was why we supported the recent legislation that increased the amount of General Fund funding available to ODFW from 2% to 8% of ODFW's budget revenues.
- 3) more support of programs that teach children and teenagers the value and benefits of all living wildlife, i.e. not just fish and game, within our state. We currently receive emails from ODFW announcing and encouraging youth or family participation in activities that get Oregon residents enjoying and appreciating the outdoors. This is great. However, many emails appear to support programs that teach kids to enjoy depleting our wildlife, like it's a commodity, rather than appreciating it. Please allow more budget funds to teach our young to understand and enjoy our wildlife's amazing survival skills, their role in a healthy environment, and to have fun sharing the wild with them.

In regard to the task force assembled under HB2402 to seek additional funding alternatives, we would be in favor of a consumption tax under, and only under, the following conditions:

- if it is guaranteed that all funds collected go directly to protecting and maintaining a healthy balance of ALL wildlife within the state and their habitat.
- if it is guaranteed that ODFW funds currently received from other sources are expended in the same way as before and not redirected to other ODFW functions just because of the new legislation.

These consumption taxes could be on tourist activities such as hotels and lodging, recreational gear (like kayaks, ATVs, tents, etc.), and increased state park visiting, hiking and camping fees. Most of our family and friends are fine with paying our share as long as taxes go to improving the quality of life for all Oregonians and not just a redistribution of wealth.

Sincerely,  
the Reid family



## Michelle Tate

---

**From:** tim goforth <tkgoforth@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2016 11:56 AM  
**To:** Michael Finley  
**Subject:** ODFW Budget

Hard Copy to follow.

Michael Finley  
1521 Nottingham Circle  
Medford, OR 97504  
Chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dear, Mr. Finley:

I am writing you today on behalf of The Steamboaters, a local conservation/flyfishing organization. We are very concerned regarding the lack of accurate fish count data for the salmon and steelhead that pass over Winchester Dam.

Several environmental factors, such as poor ocean conditions, over fishing, and high river temperatures, to name a few, are putting these fish species at risk. According to the "strata estimate" listed on the ODFW website, the count for summer steelhead through September 2015 is the lowest in 10 years. How is it possible to plan to protect this resource with incomplete data?

The Steamboaters are working closely with the Roseburg office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to assist them to gain an accurate, 100% count of these fish. We have purchased two hard drives to insure that their recordings of the fish coming through the ladder at Winchester are saved to insure an accurate count.

The mandate for ODFW is “to protect and enhance Oregon’s fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. According the 2015-17 budget, conservation and habitat resources make up only 3% of the expenditures. We are requesting that you provide funding for the Roseburg ODFW office to have a full-time staff to get an accurate 100% fish count at Winchester. We believe this is imperative to insure the survival of these fish species.

Sincerely,

Tim Goforth,

President, Steamboaters

[tkgoforth@icloud.com](mailto:tkgoforth@icloud.com)

541-496-0780



## Michelle Tate

---

**From:** ODFW Comments  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2016 8:09 AM  
**To:** Michelle Tate  
**Subject:** FW: 2017- 2019 Proposed Budget

**From:** Joanie Beldin [mailto:joanibldn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2016 8:06 AM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** 2017- 2019 Proposed Budget

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I'm an Oregonian who loves to hike and watch birds, and I have a deep interest in and concerns for all wildlife. I attended the Town Hall in Portland. The fact that ODFW did not originally schedule a meeting in this state's largest population base reflected it's lack of interest in hearing from this population. The time allotted did not allow for participation of all interested attendees. Therefore, I am submitting my comments and concerns.

1. 88% of Oregon's wildlife is non-game, yet only 1% of the money is budgeted for non-game. This is pathetic. What is the justification? In 2004, hunters and anglers accounted for only 20% of the population. Yet, essentially the entire budget is designed to meet the needs of this interest group. ODFW's headquarters is devoted to hunting and fishing interests, with only two or three conservation related pamphlets. To reflect the true nature of ODFW, it should be renamed the Department of Fishermen and Hunters.

ODFW is mandated to serve all wildlife and all Oregonians. Director Melcher stated that ODFW takes this mandate seriously. There is nothing in this budget proposal that reflects any commitment to the majority of our wildlife or the majority of the people whose wildlife interests are not in the killing of animals.

The money ODFW receives, including licensing funds, should be placed into one large pot to be divided in a way that reflects the true make-up of Oregon's wildlife and Oregon's population base. How the funds are spent should not be decided by who contributes the most. Conservationists have no significant means for contributing. With the existing model of budgeting, the conservationist's voice is silenced. This would be like our government budgeting only 1% of its funds to the needs of the low income population because that population isn't contributing to the bank. Major budget reform is needed for ODFW to give more than lip service to it's commitment to all wildlife and all the people of Oregon.

A user fee at all National Wildlife Refuges would be one way to help increase the fund base.

2. At the March meeting of the ODFW Commissioners, Russ Morgan's slide show revealed that in regards to money budgeted for the wolves, almost 80% of the state budget came from the general public lottery funds -- close to \$68,000 - while the rest came from licenses - \$24,000. At last year's hearings, over 90% of submitted comments opposed delisting the wolves. Once again, ODFW chose to ignore the voice of the majority in favor of the minority voice of the ranchers and hunters. ODFW is clearly not an agency interested in serving the interests of all Oregonians nor in the needs of our wolves, which are repeatedly treated as non-valued species.

## Michelle Tate

---

**From:** ODFW Comments  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2016 8:01 AM  
**To:** Michelle Tate  
**Subject:** FW: We must increase, not cut ODFW's budget

**From:** Merry Ann Moore [mailto:merryannmoore@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2016 8:29 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** We must increase, not cut ODFW's budget

I strongly support increasing the budget for better monitoring of Oregon waterways by ODFW. Many waterways in Oregon are water-quality impaired, and the only way we know what impact this is having on habitat are through ODFW. this problem is only going to grow with climate change and a growing population. Another example of work that's crucial is ODFW's participation in determining no net loss of wildlife or fish from proposed destination resorts. This is a statutory requirement. Yet ODFW very rarely has resources to weigh in on these proposals. I support increased funding for all of the following:

- ODFW's Water Quantity and Water Quality Program
- district biologists or assistant district biologists
- ODFW's work under the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Please allocate sufficient resources for this critically important work. Thank you for considering my views.

Merry Ann Moore  
[merryannmoore@gmail.com](mailto:merryannmoore@gmail.com)  
Office 541-749-8030  
[www.merryannmoore.com](http://www.merryannmoore.com)  
Twitter @MerryAnnMoore

## **ODFW Budget Update May 26, 2016 - Portland Town Hall**

By

Brad Halverson, VP Conservation Association Northwest Steelheaders

In response to a strong request from the environmental/conservation community, ODFW hosted a town hall in Portland on the above date to update interested citizens on their budget process so far, leading to commission, legislative and executive approval of their 2017-2019 budget. Through this network of Town Hall meetings and their widespread postings to their website, the agency is complying with its mandate for transparency. To better inform our advocacy, we must have precise knowledge of their sources of revenue and expenditures. I don't get the sense much is hidden from our scrutiny.

Attending were Brett Brownscombe from the Governor's office, Greg Wooley from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and several managers from the ODFW: Regional Manager Steve Marks, North Willamette Watershed District Manager Jeff Boechler, OSP Fish & Wildlife Division Manager Capt. Jeff Samuels, and ODFW Director Curt Melcher were presenters. The audience, made up predominantly of conservation individuals and groups numbered about 75 in a cramped room of the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel. Oregon Wild and Trout Unlimited were represented, as well as Northwest Steelheaders.

It was postulated that our constituents would be most interested in specific asks from the conservation community to the agency, and how they proposed those asks would be funded. In my opinion, that gives too much credence to this widely fragmented community. There certainly is no cohesive voice representing their opinion, nor a clearly delineated list of requests. And, they are clearly misguided about responsibilities of the agency.

The most repeated petition from this community was for a more robust effort from the agency to manage non game wildlife as well as they manage game fish and wildlife. It was also suggested, and seemed credible that as urban populations grow, city dwellers will need more avenues close to major metropolitan areas to connect with nature. In my opinion, both of these appeals have merit. I did not hear a direct need for enhanced wildlife viewing reserves; but Director Melcher mentioned the recent acquisitions by the agency of the Deschutes River Ranch and a parcel on West Hayden Island to meet this specific need.

Attached to my cover email is a PDF of last night's presentation in its entirety. But, a few specifics are offered here for your erudition: Thanks in part to our advocacy last year, the General Fund now accounts for 8% of ODFW funding. Historically, it was as high as 20% and as low ('09-11 biennium) as 2%. Further, field biologists are now funded 25% by tax dollars. Up until now, 100% of their cost came directly out of the ODFW budget. Also, commencing in 2019, ODFW will be able to bill other state agencies for work they do on their behalf. Examples include land permits and water rights that must be reviewed by ODFW for impacts to fish and wildlife. In the future, these will be billed to DSL and Water Resources Department. Other examples abound.

Where does ODFW marshal their energy? Director Melcher summarized those tasks to include Columbia River fisheries management, as well as hydro spill and river flow, in

collaboration with NOAA and the states of Washington and Idaho and the tribes; balance the needs of hatchery stocks for consumption and mitigation with conservation mandates to restore all wild stocks, not just listed species; hatchery practices reform and hatchery maintenance; predation attention, and collaborating in restoring wetlands and habitat. But, you can see from their budget expenditures as a percent of the whole, predation and habitat are not allocated a preponderance of resources.

On page 21 of the attached Power Point, you can observe that 46% of their 2015-2017 funding comes directly from Other Funds, of which hunting and angling licenses are the majority. These funds are used for all core fish and wildlife programs and agency operating capital. Federal Funds accounts for an additional 39% of their revenue, of which excise taxes on fishing related equipment and guns and ammo are the dominant contributors. Lottery dollars (1%) and General Fund (8%) form the balance with the 6% opening balance. Page 22 reveals that hunters and anglers (including commercials at 3%) contribute a combined 52% of their overall budget. When asked how the agency funds non game fish and wildlife work, Director Melcher replied through state lottery dollars, GF dollars, federal USFWS grants and ESA funds.

With regard to Conservation work by the agency, a few specific wildlife projects were mentioned (sage grouse and desert kit fox) and restoring Chubb to a delisted status. Also, the aforementioned enhanced wildlife viewing opportunities, and research on bats. In addition, staff spends ample time updating the 2005 Oregon Conservation Strategy, which is the state blueprint for voluntary conservation actions. To fully implement this plan, a requirement of the USFWS, costs ODFW approximately \$20M annually.

During the agency expenditure discussion, Captain Samuels was queried if they could reduce their work and OSP portion of the ODFW budget if all licensed anglers and hunters went away. On the contrary, he responded their workload would increase due to increased poaching of now non licensed persons. 54% of the fish and wildlife division of OSP is funded by ODFW, 17% from lottery dollars and 18% from the General Fund. Also during this part of the presentation it was stated that deferred maintenance is a real concern, certainly at the hatcheries, but really at all ODFW facilities. Capital improvements are 3% of their budget.

For the past decade, hunting and angling licenses have been flat though state population has had robust growth. With the 10% license fee increases implemented in January of this year, it was modeled they could expect a proportionate decline in license purchases. While the combination licenses are down 10%, and resident angler licenses declined 2%, other categories are showing improvement. Youth licenses are up 36% and Pioneers are up 17%, even though they were charged \$6 for the first time this year. Also encouraging is the increase in non-resident hunters (5%) and anglers (12%).

Near the conclusion of this 2-1/2 hour presentation, Director Melcher talked briefly about the 2017-19 Budget. It is being presented to the Commission for approval at the June meeting as a "Current Service Level Budget" with no major program changes prescribed. Slight adjustments due to inflation will be considered. They are not asking for additional GF monies, but they have been advised they will face modest deductions here. From the Commission, it will go to the

Governor August 29<sup>th</sup>. Then to the Legislature December 1<sup>st</sup>. Alternative sources of funds are the study behind HB2402. We are represented on that task force, which will be submitting their ideas in September 2016. In addition, at the federal level, a funding commission has earmarked \$1.3B in royalties from oil and gas exploration for conservation actions. Some of this may trickle down to ODFW.

Finally, the Q&A session at the end was very mild compared to other town halls we have witnessed. Comments and concerns from the audience included anxiety about managing one species at the expense of others: i.e. lethal take for pinnipeds and avian predators to save salmon, or the lethal removal of wolves to save livestock. Both of those actions are mandated and permitted at the federal level conducted in collaboration with the Oregon agency. They were admonished to provide better forest harvest practices in order to cut down on forest fires, and enforce clean water; neither of which fall within their purview. One petitioner stated the need to close all hatcheries in the state. *Finally, they were rebuked to stop climate change and global warming.* To the credit of Director Melcher, he handled all questions and comments with patience and respect. *The core idea presented by the conservation audience was that they feel disenfranchised.* They don't feel they have the voice the anglers and hunters do, so it is difficult to advocate for more management actions directed to non-game fish and wildlife. One lady pleaded how to shift hunting dollars to enhanced protection for non-hunted wildlife (especially wolves).

# OREGON DESERT BRINE SHRIMP COMPANY

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Portland, OR 97231  
503- 285-3729

May 24, 2016

ODFW Director's Office  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE  
Salem, Or 7302-1142.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to submit the following comment letter added to the discussion at the ODFW's Town Hall Meeting in Portland.

There is little doubt that ODFW has been instrumental in preserving our wildlife and fisheries in Oregon and should be encouraged and fully funded to achieve these goals.

However, my concern is that the appropriation of money and effort by ODFW is too heavily targeted on species and habitats which caters to fishing and hunting interests - at times at the expense of non game species and habitats.

Lake Abert, a large salt water lake in southeastern Oregon is a prime example.

1. This lake has no fish and little hunting potential.
2. Abert however is probably the most biologically productive lake in the state producing tens of millions of pounds of brine shrimp and brine flies which supports over three million migratory birds.
3. Needless to say this unique ecosystem - now ecologically dead because of lack of water desperately needs protection to ensure its viability.
4. Sadly ODFW has done little to protect this lake, but instead has been instrumental in causing its demise from the following actions:
  - a. funding and support of the Rivers End Dam which created the state's largest private reservoir which prevented critical water from reaching the lake.
  - b. through funding and support of Inter Mountain Joint Venture project which further withdrew more water from the Chewaucan river from entering the lake.
5. Both of these projects did not in any way evaluate the negative effect they would have on Lake Abert's ecosystem, but instead concentrated on increasing freshwater habitat for ducks upriver on private property. This was done by working with ranchers in order to get more water on private land for irrigation with the intent of attracting more ducks. This does

Scanned to Pub Lorr 5/24/16  
Lole

69217 Tapidero  
Sisters, OR 97759

ODFW Director's Office  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE  
Salem, OR 97302

**SUBJECT: ODFW 2017-2019 Budget Comments**

My comments emphasize modifying ODFW's existing WQ, timber harvest and water rights authorities. Under certain circumstances aquatic and wildlife habitat should have resource management priority and ODFW should have the authority and funding to implement such priority. ODFW's programs should be expanded; and funded and staffed at significantly higher levels than in the past. The Habitat Conservation Division should be reestablished.

Just as we no longer manage forests primarily for tree harvest, i.e. logging, ODFW should evolve into a habitat conservation agency that does more than manage fish and wildlife for harvest by fishing and hunting. General taxpayer revenues are needed to help pay for the ODFW activities that benefit fish and wildlife.

Significant increases are needed in funds and staff for ODFW's programs involving water quantity & quality; research; and habitat protection and restoration for fish, wildlife, wetland and riparian areas. More money is particularly needed for ODFW's water program, including for applying for new instream water rights and resolving protested instream water rights.


More district and assistant biologists and more research specialists are essential. The previous four regions should be reestablished. Higher fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing fees (commercial and recreational) sufficient to help pay for increases in the related programs are high priority.

ODFW should have authority to set water quality, eutrophication, discharge, sediment delivery and bedload limits for streams that are essential for wild-native salmonid recovery and protection. Conditional authority is needed for ODFW to set Oregon and federal timber harvest constraints that are necessary for wild-native salmonid recovery/protection, including discharge/runoff, no disturbance zones and location limits.

ODFW must be able to set Oregon land use and development constraints for lands that are of high priority for fish and wildlife.

Oregon's water law should be revised to require adequate instream water for fish and wildlife based on ODFW's flow studies and the needs of critical species such as the Spotted Frog.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

  
H Tom Davis, PE  
Water Resources Engineer and Hydrologist



## Jason Bader

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**From:** Lynn Herring <lynnhe@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2016 2:38 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** ODFW Budget Hearing

ODFW Budget Hearing Comments

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

E-mail: ODFW.Comments@state.or.us

To Those Concerned with the ODFW Budget:

As a member of a conservation group that has worked in past sessions of the Oregon Legislature toward specific, creative funding strategies to benefit Oregon's non-game wildlife, and as an Oregon resident and taxpayer, I urge you to increase funding for a statewide conservation strategy that protects the 88% of the wildlife species that are not hunted or fished and then ensure its implementation.

What has become of the impressive work of the former heralded Wildlife Diversity Program that worked to conserve and protect Oregon's non-game species and educate the public to that end? Where are the updates of the status reviews for sensitive and endangered species?

It is derelict to spend only 2% of the ODFW budget on non-game species -- Oregon's intrinsically valuable wildlife. In addition, the department itself and the Oregon Legislature are underestimating the worth of the public's chronicled investment in wildlife watching, because the public cares about the fate of non-game species.

Furthermore, conservationists are willing to support new sources of revenue that will genuinely ensure conservation and protection of Oregon's native fish, wildlife and their habitats.



This is your watch and mine. Champion Oregon's non-game wildlife.

Sincerely,

Lynn Herring,

1090 Chandler Road

Lake Oswego, OR 97034

[lynnhe@outlook.com](mailto:lynnhe@outlook.com)

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Deanna <deanna@involved.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 22, 2016 5:10 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** ODFW Proposed Budget - please add my comments to the public comment record

Dear ODFW:

I can't attend the ODFW Budget Hearing on May 26, but would like to enter the following comments in your public record.

ODFW is charged with addressing the needs of ALL wildlife in Oregon, not just those species that are hunted, fished, and trapped. The ODFW budget has been woefully inadequate in addressing that charge. Specifically, implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy has been crippled because of lack of funding. Currently only 2% of the ODFW budget goes to the 88% of the species that are not hunted or fished - this is unacceptable.

Revenue from hunting and fishing licenses (and purchases of ammunition) continues to decrease. But outdoor recreation - and the related and integral enjoyment of non-game species of all types of wildlife - increases with our increasing population. Oregon is becoming ever more urban, and the recreation needs of our increasingly diverse population need to be considered. Fish and wildlife species belong to every Oregonian, and have habitat and other needs that your Agency needs - urgently - to address. Oregonians expect more of your agency than just supporting game programs and hatcheries. You are well aware that bird-watching, for example, is one of the most-practiced outdoor activities in the nation, bird-watchers vastly dwarfing the number of folks engaged in hunting and fishing. Birders understand the crucial need for conservation - to protect and enhance habitat; and they understand that this costs money.

Non-consumptive recreationists need to have the opportunity to financially support non-game species through implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy. ODFW needs to get behind such strategies and bring them to the attention of the Legislature, with appropriate funding requested - with options for creating such funding. The Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education Task Force is in the process of developing recommendations to address the lack of non-game funding. Their recommendations will garner support from the public and the Legislature **IF** the funds are assured to go to conservation projects in perpetuity.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Deanna Mueller-Crispin  
1221 SW 10th Ave Unit 1013  
Portland, OR 97205  
[deanna@involved.com](mailto:deanna@involved.com)

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Ian Isaacson <iandavidisaacson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2016 4:09 PM  
**To:** odfw.comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Budget Meeting/Special Funding Commission

Hello,

My name is Ian Isaacson and I attended my first ODFW budget meeting last week in Bend and I have to commend the ODFW personal working it on a great meeting. I am trying to get more involved in the public process and this was a very informative meeting. I do have two specific comments/suggestions following that meeting that I would like to offer to you.

1) I think working with the outdoor companies/businesses here in Oregon to see if an excise tax, like a Pittman Robertson, would be feasible on all outdoor equipment sales. Non consumptive users actually make up the vast majority of our public land users, enjoying the scenery, wild places and wild animals, but I don't feel they pay their fair share for the conservation of these places and the critters that live there. This would be a way to help that.

2) I moved to Oregon 4 years ago from Michigan and was SHOCKED when I bought my first hunting license out here. Why are the tags/licenses so long? In Michigan they were nice and small and I didn't need an extra wallet to carry all of them. Is there a reason why they are so long? Wouldn't making them smaller save a lot of tag paper(plastic) saving the ODFW some money on the amount of that material they have to supply?

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and keep up the good work!

Ian Isaacson  
[iandavidisaacson@gmail.com](mailto:iandavidisaacson@gmail.com)  
(810)252-4118

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Paul Riedmiller <yopaulie1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2016 7:52 AM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comments on ODFW proposed budget

Hello,

I cannot make it to the town hall meeting on Thursday 5/26, but I would like to suggest/support a few things with the comments below. I support Water Watch, I believe in protecting and preserving one of Oregon's most valuable resources, and I highly value Oregon's natural beauty and resources.

- Increase funding for ODFW's Water Quantity and Water Quality Program
- Increase funding for district biologists or assistant district biologists
- Support staff and funding for ODFW's work under the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

I believe the ODFW has the potential to continue to protect our beautiful state, and I thank you for your service and opportunities to give our ideas and feedback.

Thanks!

Paul

**From:** [Bill Herber](#)  
**To:** [Michelle Tate](#)  
**Cc:** [Lisa Evans](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Budget Considerations  
**Date:** Monday, May 16, 2016 8:54:57 PM

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Hi Michelle, here's a public comment for the June Commission/budget topic. Thanks!

**From:** Roger Fuhrman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 3:41 PM  
**To:** Bill Herber <[Bill.Herber@coho2.dfw.state.or.us](mailto:Bill.Herber@coho2.dfw.state.or.us)>; Lisa Evans <[Lisa.D.Evans@coho2.dfw.state.or.us](mailto:Lisa.D.Evans@coho2.dfw.state.or.us)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Budget Considerations

FYI

This probably goes in town hall comment file.

Roger Fuhrman  
Director's Office  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
503-947-6077 (w)  
503-702-4407 (c)  
[roger.w.fuhrman@state.or.us](mailto:roger.w.fuhrman@state.or.us)

**From:** ODFW Comments <[ODFW.Comments@coho2.dfw.state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.Comments@coho2.dfw.state.or.us)>  
**Sent:** Apr 27, 2016 3:38 PM  
**To:** Michael W Anderson  
**Cc:** Roger Fuhrman  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Budget Considerations

**From:** Harry [<mailto:hfooster730@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 1:52 PM  
**To:** [ODFW.Comments@state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.Comments@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Proposed Budget Considerations

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider increasing the funding for ODFW's Water Quantity and Water Quality Program in your new budget. Also, please increase funding for district biologists or assistant district biologists. I support staff and funding for ODFW's work under the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Thank you,  
Harry L. Foster

Medford, OR

**Michelle Tate**

---

**Subject:** RE: ODFW Budget

-----Original Message-----

From: Curt Melcher  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:10 AM  
To: Michelle Tate <Michelle.L.Tate@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>  
Cc: Bill Herber <Bill.Herber@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>  
Subject: FW: ODFW Budget

For the June Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: JAMES F WRIGHT [mailto:jamesfwright@me.com]  
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 3:02 PM  
To: Ed Bowles; Curt Melcher  
Cc: Bruce McIntosh; John Brenneman; Tom Becker  
Subject: ODFW Budget

Ed Bowles,

I was hoping to get to Newport tonight to the budget hearing, but am having a hard time getting away.

So I wanted to just let you know we will be reminding ODFW and the Commission about our desire to see the springer projects funded in the main budget next year. When it became clear that it wasn't going to happen in the short session, I was just leaving Witt's office when I bumped into Brett in the hallway. I filled him in and he suggested that we put our focus on next years Governor's budget. I shared that with Arnie and Rosie and with Brad Witt, and all agreed that would be a good way to go.

So that is what we will be pursuing. We are still on the job mostly working below the radar... I recently spoke with Coquille Tribal Chairperson Brenda Meade and she again expressed the interest of the Tribe in being involved in the Coos Bay version of the project. I will be meeting with them again soon to get something in writing for the Commission. I am also rounding up a few other letters from important players.

I hope you are well. I hope to schedule a visit with you sometime soon to cover a few things.

Thanks for all your good work.

Jim Wright  
503-749-1150

**Michelle Tate**

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**Subject:** FW: Oregon Conservation Network's 2017-19 ODFW Budget Priorities  
**Attachments:** OCN 2017-19 ODFW Budget Letter (April 2016).pdf

**From:** Adam Meyer [<mailto:adam@olcv.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 06, 2016 11:31 AM  
**To:** Curt Melcher  
**Cc:** SEN Devlin; REP Buckley; REP Taylor; WHITMAN Richard M \* GOV; [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Oregon Conservation Network's 2017-19 ODFW Budget Priorities

Good morning Director Curt Melcher,

Please see the attached letter on behalf of the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN). The work ODFW performs is important to the 40+ Oregon non-profits that make up OCN, and who collectively represent over one hundred thousand individual members. In this letter, we identify priority issues and hope your department takes these suggestions into strong consideration when budgeting for the 2017-19 biennium.

I've appreciated the work and conversations we have built on recently at EBAC, 2402 taskforce, and other agency meetings. OCN looks forward to working with you in the year to come as we move through the budget process. Please let me know if we can assist in any way.

Thank you,

Adam Meyer

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**Adam Meyer**  
*Budget Specialist*  
*Oregon Conservation Network &*  
*Oregon League of Conservation Voters*



**Michelle Tate**

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**Subject:** FW: how to fix part of your budget issues?

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From: Dan Kirkpatrick [Dan.Kirkpatrick@pgn.com]  
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 6:46 PM  
To: Richard.j.hargrave@state.or.us  
Subject: how to fix part of your budget issues?

I cant make it to a meeting, but I do have an idea id like to forward to you folks. even though im a resident here and apply for resident tags,, I also apply as a non-resident in several other states also. I feel that Oregon should up the quota of non resident tags up to at least 10% to match idahos quota? The sale and increased price of the non res tags should give your budget quite a boost in revenue. even though this cuts even more into the resident tag allocation that personally drops my odds, im still in favor of this so Oregon can be a fair player with the other non-residents that might spend there money here applying in Oregon. oregon gets a really bad rap of complaints on several of the hunt forums on the web for not allocating enough non res tags. spring bear included also.,.,., and quit allowing the outfitters to buy up the "good" Oregon non-res tags.,., I see that as government welfare. ///Thanks,, just my thoughts id like to express /// Dan Kirkpatrick

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Shawn@Home <cascadia@mountainroseherbs.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 6:46 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comments on upcoming ODFE budget hearings

To whom it may concern,

It is to my understanding that a preliminary ODFW budget is being proposed with the opportunity for public comment. I would like to take this opportunity to express that ODFW should make serious considerations to increase funding for ODFW's Water Quantity and Water Quality Program as I believe this could help our fisheries and sport fisherman tremendously. Science has suggested that an increase in water quantity and quality boosts populations of invertebrates and fish which is an essential component of ODFW's work.

In addition to this I would like to see an increase in the budget for district biologists as I feel their scrutiny is essential to protecting, enhancing, and establishing species of concern and this will benefit those who enjoy wildlife for either viewing or hunting.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Regards

Shawn Donnille  
Eugene, Oregon

Shawn Donnille  
Vice President/Co-Owner  
541-741-2339  
[cascadia@mountainroseherbs.com](mailto:cascadia@mountainroseherbs.com)



THIS EMAIL WAS SENT USING SOLAR POWER! [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS.](#)

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Laurel Hines <laulehines@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2016 4:21 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comments on ODFW proposed budget

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to submit the following comments about the proposed ODFW budget changes and possible rule changes:

Oregon wildlife is for all Oregonians, not just hunters and fishermen/women. Those who enjoy hiking and viewing wildlife also deserve a say in how wildlife is managed. It is wrong that most of the funding for ODFW comes from hunting and fishing tags/licenses. I believe that ODFW staff should pressure the legislators to find other support, whether that is additional income tax to residents, or some other funding source, to make managing wildlife truly wildlife management for the sake of all wildlife, and not just to maximize game numbers for hunters.

The predator species, such as wolves, cougar, and bears, and even coyotes, balance nature more naturally and beneficially, in the long run, than human predators (hunters) and other attempts by humans to manage nature.

I strongly object to the consideration of allowing cougar hunting with hounds. This is a cruel practice in which hounds chase cougar to exhaustion, and sometimes rip them apart if they aren't treed. It is not a humane way to hunt cougar. It is also not a good life for the hunting dogs, which usually don't live like beloved household pets.

The Oregon voters have twice said they don't want this practice of hunting cougar with hounds, yet every year a few legislators try to get the law changed. Every year contentious hearings are held. Luckily some of the wiser Senate legislators do not pass any of these bills, knowing that they go against what the majority of voters have twice said they wanted (via Initiatives).

ODFW should not on its own defy the public. Cougars are not increasing to the point of posing a statistically significant risk to humans or livestock in any are of Oregon. The only reason this rule change ( to allow cougar hunting with hounds) is being considered, is that ODFW or others want to increase prey numbers (deer and elk) for the human hunters. This is not a good reason; killing one type of wildlife to increase another type, just so humans can kill more, is ridiculous. The usual reason for deer and elk number reductions is weather, disease, or loss of habitat, and not prey animal numbers.

Please do not pass the rule change to allow hunting of cougar by dogs. Please appeal to the legislature to fund ODFW differently, rather than the majority of the funds from hunting and fishing sources.

Laurel Hines, 10371 Lake Drive SE, Salem Oregon

## Jason Bader

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**From:** Madya <madyapan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 10:05:PM  
**To:** ODFW.Comments@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Comments on ODFW proposed budget

If you care about Oregon and the Earth, you care about the Rivers.  
Do everything in your power to make sure rivers run clean. Protect the flow  
of the rivers into forever for future generations.  
Make sure polluters are held accountable.  
As servant of the citizens of Oregon do what is Right.  
Blessings on the Earth, Blessings on the Rivers.  
Madya

**From:** [leslie\\_dewey](mailto:leslie_dewey)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Charge less and Make more \$  
**Date:** Sunday, January 10, 2016 9:51:38 AM

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I see where the commission will be holding a meeting to discuss things such as how to increase revenue to cover costs. Thought I would give you my thoughts on a way to increase your revenue. I lived in and hunted in Oregon for 30 plus years before my job took me out of State. For the last 20 years I have been buying out of state tags to hunt with family and friends. This last year I did not buy an out of state elk tag. With the drawing and failure to get a decent tag, it was not worth the \$500 dollars to maybe get look for a spike. I would suggest that you put in a two level tag system for elk. \$549 for an any bull tag and maybe \$350 for the spike tag. I will pay the \$350 to be able to hunt with the group rather than being the camp cook. Let's say that I get the any bull tag every 4 years. That you mean that you get 3 years at \$350 for \$1050 and 1 year at \$549 for a total income of \$1599 vs \$549. You see that you gain extra income—for a lot of us from out of state will not be paying the high dollars to hunt a spike elk. There is a need to think outside the old box.

I know it is easy to say let's charge the out of state hunters more—but there is a point that you lose money rather than gain income. I used to hunt both deer and elk in Oregon but the price of tags has stopped that practice also which has resulted in the state getting less revenue again.

One other thought would be that as you increase the costs for the out of state fishing lisc, you are getting to the point that we will no longer buy the yearly lisc., but only get the day lisc. as we need them, which will result in a further loss of revenue.

Doubt if this will make any difference but thought I would at least try.

Sincerely,

Leslie Dewey  
White Salmon, WA  
[lesdew@embarqmail.com](mailto:lesdew@embarqmail.com)

**Michelle Tate**

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**Subject:** FW: how to fix part of your budget issues?

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From: Dan Kirkpatrick [Dan.Kirkpatrick@pgn.com]  
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 6:46 PM  
To: Richard.j.hargrave@state.or.us  
Subject: how to fix part of your budget issues?

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**From:** [Adam Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Curt Melcher](#)  
**Cc:** [SEN Devlin](#); [REP Buckley](#); [REP Taylor](#); [WHITMAN Richard M \\* GOV](#); [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Oregon Conservation Network's 2017-19 ODFW Budget Priorities  
**Date:** Friday, May 06, 2016 11:30:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [OCN 2017-19 ODFW Budget Letter \(April 2016\).pdf](#)

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Good morning Director Curt Melcher,

Please see the attached letter on behalf of the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN). The work ODFW performs is important to the 40+ Oregon non-profits that make up OCN, and who collectively represent over one hundred thousand individual members. In this letter, we identify priority issues and hope your department takes these suggestions into strong consideration when budgeting for the 2017-19 biennium.

I've appreciated the work and conversations we have built on recently at EBAC, 2402 taskforce, and other agency meetings. OCN looks forward to working with you in the year to come as we move through the budget process. Please let me know if we can assist in any way.

Thank you,

Adam Meyer

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**Adam Meyer**  
*Budget Specialist*  
*Oregon Conservation Network &*  
*Oregon League of Conservation Voters*



Director Curt Melcher  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

**RE: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2017-19 Budget**

Dear Director Curt Melcher,

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is comprised of more than 40 Oregon non-profits with over one hundred thousand individual members. Our mission is to support pro-conservation priorities, protect our unique quality of life, and ensure a better Oregon for our children. We care deeply about the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) mission to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

The work ODFW performs is important to OCN's members. The following items have been prioritized by OCN. We hope your agency takes these suggestions into strong consideration when budgeting for the 2017-19 biennium:

1. Continue to support the HB 2402 ODFW long-term funding task force process.
  - a. Support funds that focus on core ODFW conservation priorities found in the Oregon Conservation Strategy
  - b. Engage all Oregon communities, including "non-traditional" voices.
2. Support revisions to Oregon's Wolf plan.
3. Increase funding for water quality and quantity programs (more staff is needed).
4. Provide adequate staff, beyond the existing water program, to implement in-stream actions under the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), including applying for new in-stream water rights and resolving protested applications.
5. Support additional district and/or assistant district biologists.
6. Support recommendations brought forth through the drought task force to protect in-stream habitat.
7. Ensure funding for in-stream water rights and pursue new ones.
8. Support the general fund request for fishery, research and monitoring program funding (POP from 2015).
9. Study/identify the need for wildlife corridors (in partnership with ODOT and DLCD).

At present, there appear to be a few budgeting challenges on the horizon for Oregon. While much of ODFW's funding comes from federal, and license and fee revenue, inflating PERS costs, rising healthcare rates, cost of service adjustments, and inflation factors are just a few of the growing elements challenging our state budget. We also fully support the efforts underway set up by HB 2402 from the 2015 legislative session. Now more than ever it is important to closely examine and prioritize our agency budgets.





We look forward to working with you as you continue your 2017-19 budget process.

Sincerely,

The Oregon Conservation Network

*(Contact: Adam Meyer at [adam@olcn.org](mailto:adam@olcn.org) or 971-404-6501)*

CC: ODFW Commission Members: Chair Michael Finley; Holly Akenson; Bruce Buckmaster; Jason Atkinson; Gregory J. Wolley; Bob Webber; Laura Anderson. Ways and Means Co-chairs: Senator Richard Devlin; Representative Peter Buckley; Representative Kathleen Taylor. Governor Kate Brown.

**From:** [Scott Kenney](#)  
**To:** [ODFW Commission](#)  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2016 8:26:46 AM

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I see in the new 2016 regulations that you have removed the pioneer license. You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

After being a lifetime Oregon resident and buying a licenses and following the rules my dad now get's to pay extra for the privilege to hunt and fish in Oregon. It's not about raising fees, we all understand it cost money to manage wildlife. But then you turn around on top of the fees and take away something that older folks who have been here a life time are proud of. You owe all of them an apology.

SHAME ON YOU.

*Scott K. Kenney  
Cessna Authorized Service Center.  
Troutdale Aircraft Services, Inc.  
1250 NW Perimeter Way  
Troutdale, Oregon 97060  
503-502-2443 Cell  
503-666-3838 Office*

**From:** [Arthur Smith](#)  
**To:** [ODFW Commission](#)  
**Subject:** license  
**Date:** Sunday, April 17, 2016 8:55:43 AM

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To: ODFW commission & Director

Who are the **stupid** people who decided to increase license fees by over 60% .

Then to make it even worse you decide to put the regs in full color magazine format .

You have not done anything to help the sportsman .

Your controlled hunt system is a joke . after about 3 years the hunter can forget about a controlled hunt tag .

What you have done is force people like me on a retired income to hunt without a license

Arthur Smith USCG Ret.

**Reply requested**

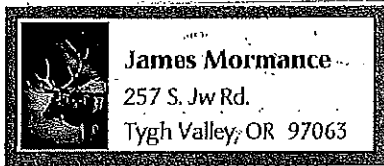
JIM MORMANCE  
257 S Jw RD.  
TYGH VALLEY OR 97063  
503 887 7316

THE NEW GUIDE  
IS VERY HARD TO READ  
NICE GOING HO HO

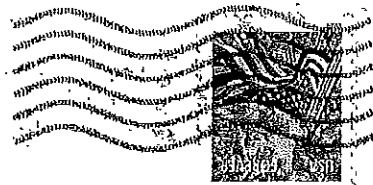


THANK YOU FOR RAISING  
THE PRICE FOR HUNTING  
FISHING. I AM ON A FIXED  
INCOME, AS WITH OTHERS.  
THE NEW HUNTING & FISHING  
GUIDE, IS THIS WHAT WE  
SPEN THE INCREASE ON?  
YOU CANNOT START A FIRE  
IF IT IS LOSS. I THINK YOU  
PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE  
A CUT IN PAY. THIS WASTE  
CURT MELCHER, MIKE FINLEY,  
HOLLY ATKINSON, LAURA ANDERSON,  
JASON ATKINSON, BRUCE BUCKMASTER,  
BOB WEBBER, GREG WOLLEY

MAYBE YOU WANT  
PEOPLE TO HUNT OUT OF  
STATE  
OVER SIM MORMANCE

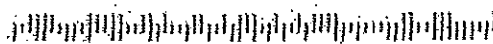


PORTLAND OR 970  
19 FEB 2016 PM 5 L



ODFW Mailroom

Received  
FEB 22 2016  
CURT MELCHER DIRECTOR  
SALEM HEADQUARTERS OFFICE  
4034 FAIRVIEW INDUSTRIAL DR. SE  
SALEM, OR. 97302



Mr. Curt Melcher, Director  
ODFW

5<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

Mr. Melcher, I picked up a 2016 Oregon Big Game Hunting regulation manual at our local Bi-Mart and was impressed with the new slick papered cover, etc. I thought this as a very special change over the past many years.

But, upon reading the manual I was astonished by what I read under the "fee" section, Pioneer Combination, \$6.00.

I, like many aging hunters and fisherpersons, dutifully paid for my licenses for many years. Once I was in my upper fifties I secretly looked forward to the time when this would be issued to me free of charge knowing I still was responsible for paying for tags, etc. It was something that I figured I earned by contributing for so many years. For me it has been since I was eleven and now I'm seventy.

The first year I was eligible it was called a Pioneer license instead of a Lifetime license. At that I felt there was a fee in the future. I contacted ODFW and was told it was decided to have the licenses renewed yearly so the Department could have a more accurate count of the current people above sixty-five still hunting/fishing. A lifetime license did not give them this statistic. I was assured there was no thought of a fee in the future. Okay, I accepted that.

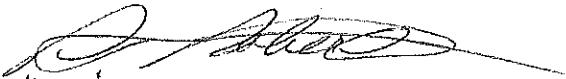
For four years I was proud of my "no fee" Pioneer hunting/fishing license and even bragged to my under sixty-five friends. I've always told them "I earned this."

The six dollars is not the issue with me. I feel ODFW has let it's clientele of older hunters and fisherpersons down. I reluctantly purchased my license today and will purchase my fish, deer and elk tags accordingly.

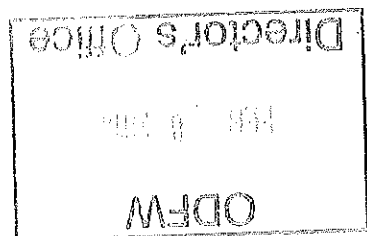
To sum things up, I don't think by adding a six dollar fee to the Pioneer license made a big difference in the total budget of ODFW. My thought is "we" paid for the fancy cover to the 2016 regulations. In that case we could have done without it.

I'm also aware of money shortfalls within all State and County Departments and really have no answers but I thought you may want to know my thoughts on this particular issue. My fellow outdoors people really do and agree with me. And no, we can't boycott hunting and fishing because for many of us it's been the love of our lives and still is.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and knowing my feelings. I truly feel the aging hunters and fisherpersons have been let down by ODFW.



Philip Roberts  
#196798  
Marcola, Oregon



**From:** [David James](#)  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us); [odfw.info@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.info@state.or.us); [curt.melcher@state.or.us](mailto:curt.melcher@state.or.us)  
**Cc:** [REP Hack](#); [SEN Winters](#)  
**Subject:** Increased Fishing and Hunting Fees  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2016 2:17:39 PM

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To All Addressed:

Today I had a bit of an unpleasant surprise when I went in to get my annual fishing/hunting license and tag. Each year I have been getting a resident combination and Salmon/Steelhead tag. Last year the total was \$26.50 – because I am a native Oregonian of 69 years of age and have lived here my entire life except for 4 years of military service – I qualify for a “Pioneer” license.

I presented my last year’s stuff to the clerk and said “same for this year” and he scanned the barcode and everything began printing out, and he said “that will be \$41.00.” And I said WHAT!!!??? Doing the math – that’s a nearly 55% increase!! “Well, they raised the price of the tag from \$26.50 to \$35, and the Pioneer license isn’t free any more, it’s \$6.00” he said. Maybe he could have told me that before he printed it all off. ...

So I have a couple of comments. I’m pretty ticked off by this... nonsense, I’ll call it. The \$6.00 is simply an insult. I’m sure I could pretty well summarize the original intent of the free Pioneer license concept – but apparently you people don’t give a rat’s ass about that. It’s all about money with you. Gouge whomever you can – in this case older people – virtually all of us on fixed retirement income. Congratulations on your resourcefulness.

In itself, the tag price is a whopping 32% increase – not insubstantial – whether you’re on fixed income or not.

Philosophically – I will say that I believe that it is the obligation of EVERYONE – every citizen – to support the infrastructure of this country. Whether that’s highways, parks, forests, trails, fish & wildlife, camp grounds, waterways, beaches – ALL of it. This idea of moving toward “user fees” is utter bullshit. I’m charged a fee to take a walk in MY OWN National Forest!! If some people want to sit on their sorry asses in front of the TV set – that’s THEIR problem, but you’re making it MINE! EVERYONE must support our national (and state) resources! To penalize those who have the initiative to get off their butts and get outdoors, is simply WRONG.

If it at all helps your budgeting process – I can now tell you how much you’ll get from me next year - \$0. You’ve put me out of the fishing and hunting business. This will be my last year.

Oh – and you might want to tell your local licensing agents to inform people of these increases before they print out the documents....

David James  
Salem